

2011 Retiring Members of Macalester College Staff

Craig Aase



Craig Aase spent his career helping Macalester make the most of its finances, benefiting every student for 33 years. Craig graduated from

Macalester in 1970 and earned an MBA. Returning in 1977, he worked as controller and then business manager for Paul Aslanian, Craig's former professor and the college's chief financial officer. In 1995, Craig succeeded Aslanian as CFO, managing the college's budget and operations and overseeing its investments. During the early 1990s, Macalester's endowment had benefited from DeWitt Wallace's large gift of Reader's Digest stock.

In 2002 as the college began to diversify its Reader's Digest holdings, Craig assumed the new position of chief investment officer. He moved from a dozen investment managers to the current 50. With investments ranging from stocks and bonds to energy and real estate, Craig has kept the endowment's performance in the top 10 percent among small colleges.

His disciplined investment approach is credited with the endowment's far-better-than-average performance during the recent financial crisis. "Craig understands the endowment lives to help the operating budget," Treasurer David Wheaton told the Mac Weekly. "He understands and respects the relationship between the two."

Kathleen Alford Hansen



In more than 17 years at Macalester, Kathleen Alford Hansen became a crucial connection between the fast-paced, detail-

flooded reality of campus life and the elegance and grace of the President's Office. Keeping track of every detail, and making it look easy, made her indispensable not only to Brian Rosenberg, but also to the trustees. Kathleen joined Macalester in 1992 as senior secretary in Hispanic and Latin American Studies. She then joined the President's Office as department coordinator, becoming the executive assistant in 1995, and concluding her service to Macalester as assistant to the president and secretary to the Board of Trustees.

"My favorite memories of Mac are working with and for three amazingly bright presidents—Bob Gavin, Mike McPherson and Brian Rosenberg, many wonderful trustees, and the amazingly bright and talented students," says Kathleen.

In announcing her retirement, Brian Rosenberg wrote, "I will miss Kathleen's expertise, effort, and dedication enormously, but I am most happy for the opportunity she will now have to spend time with her husband and the rest of her family. Kathleen has been a model of consistent devotion to the excellence of the college."

Larry Lund



For 33 years, Larry Lund made things happen at Macalester. Surely one of the warmest and friendliest people on campus, he came to Mac as

a safety officer in 1977, moving to the Trades Department in 1980, and becoming a sign-maker and painter in 1994. If you know where to go, and it looks nice when you get there, Larry probably had a hand in it.

At a breakfast hosted by Facilities Services in Larry's honor, Mike Hall, knowing of his friend's interest in trains, remarked, "As Larry has ridden this train for 33 years, there have been lots of changes to the campus scenery going by the windows: different college presidents have come and gone, different passengers have gotten on and off to share parts of the journey. There have been bridges to get across, even some new track being put in to explore with each new building and sign type. There are different stations to stop at during different phases of each person's life. Larry, as you climb down from the Macalester Pullman car, I wish you all the best as you transfer to a new train and head off in a brand new direction."

Nancy Peterson



Nothing can be written about Nancy Peterson that she couldn't write far better herself. She came to Macalester in 1982 to direct the office of

News and Publications. In the 28 years since then, Nancy has been an eloquent promoter of the college and a careful guardian of its image. She started the alumni magazine, *Macalester Today*, which, according to surveys, is read by nearly every alumnus. She has developed, guided, and often written key elements of our communications to alumni, donors, and the community, including essential materials for several campaigns and the college coffee table book.

"Nancy's institutional knowledge is incomparable," says David Warch, director of client services. "When I came to Macalester, whatever I needed to know, Nancy either knew it or knew who did. More importantly, her eloquent and exacting writing has set the standard for the voice of Macalester." Fortunately, Nancy eased our transition by going to part-time work before retiring altogether to take an even more active role in the lives of her grandchildren, her Saints baseball team, her garden, and the blogosphere.

Carol Polk



For exactly 22 years, Carol Polk was instrumental in keeping Macalester alumni connected with the college. She joined

the Alumni Office in 1989 as department coordinator and retired as associate director. Carol has coordinated 22 reunions, wrangled golf carts, walkie-talkies, chafing dishes, menus, invitations, phoning nights, and committee chairs and taught many, many reunion staffers the finer points of volunteer management. The travel program she developed has taken alumni around the Midwest and around the world, providing rich opportunities to explore new places in the pleasant company of other alumni. Carol has planned and organized faculty lectures on campus and around the country, staffed alumni committees and managed the department budgets. Over the years Carol has worked with hundreds of students, teaching them the finer points of hosting events with efficiency and a smile.

"We are sure she is responsible for millions of other details that we will only learn about after she leaves!" wrote her colleagues in the Alumni Office at her retirement. "We will miss Carol's stories, her experience and her calming presence and wish her the very best as she begins her new adventures."

2011 Retiring Members of Macalester College Faculty

Joan Hutchinson

Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science



After 38 years, Joan Hutchinson has retired from teaching, but she has definitely not retired from mathematics. Joan earned her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, working in the relatively new

fields of combinatorial analysis and graph theory. In 1990, Joan came to Macalester from Smith College. During her 17 years here, she was twice honored by the Mathematical Association of America (1998 and 1999) for excellence in teaching. A prolific scholar, Joan has published over 50 papers—many with undergraduates—primarily in the area of graph theory, and she has presented at mathematics conferences from Hungary to New Zealand. In May 2005, at the University of Colorado, Denver, the conference Graph Theory with Altitude honored Joan on the occasion of her 60th birthday.

“Joan Hutchinson is that rare scholar who is both a brilliant researcher and a highly skilled and respected teacher,” says colleague Michael Schneider.

In 1996, Joan and a friend became the first women to ascend Colorado’s 13,120-ft. Guyselman Mountain. Joan enjoys having more time for outdoor activities near the Colorado mountain home she shares with her husband of 36 years, Professor Stan Wagon.

Kathleen Kutzke Parson '67

Chemistry and Biology



Kathy Parson majored in chemistry at Macalester, earned her PhD in biochemistry at the University of Minnesota, and in 1975, returned to Macalester, where she held full professorships in the Biology and

Chemistry Departments. From 1988 to 1995, Kathy served as founding director of the Pew Midstates Science and Mathematics Consortium, which sponsors research symposia and faculty development activities. As Academic Dean from 1995 to 1999, Kathy coordinated numerous grant proposals resulting in awards from the Keck, Mellon, Ford and Bush Foundations. She received the college’s Thomas Jefferson Award in 1998. For more than 20 years, she consulted to 3M Corporation.

From 2004 to 2006, Kathy served as a program director in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation. She was elected to the Chemistry Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research in 2007. She currently serves as a consultant to Research Corporation for Science Advancement in Tucson, Arizona.

“Kathy Parson has had a long and distinguished career as a teacher and scientist,” says her colleague, biology professor Lin Aanonsen. “Nationally, Kathy has played a leadership role in science education, and she has mentored many faculty and guided innumerable students to successful careers.”

G. Michael Schneider

Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science



Michael Schneider came to Macalester in 1982 with 10 years of experience at the Universities of Wisconsin (LaCrosse) and Minnesota (Twin Cities). His charge was to develop a strong

computer science program.

“Mike has had a huge impact on computer science curriculum at Macalester, as well as nationally and internationally,” says department chair Karen Saxe. “In 1998, he helped design a standard computer science curriculum for the liberal arts that is in use at hundreds of schools nationwide, and in 2001, he was part of a group that wrote an international standard curriculum.”

Mike’s research interests, in addition to computer science education, include computer networks and parallel and distributed systems. These interests have taken him to Mauritius, Malaysia, Nepal, and to Mongolia on Fulbright grants to teach, consult and do research. Mike served as the department chair from 2001 to 2007 and wrote seven textbooks on Java programming, computer organization, software engineering and a breadth-first overview of computing. He has taught and consulted as a visiting professor at Columbia University in New York City and in November released his new book, *On the Other Guy’s Dime: A Professional’s Guide to Traveling without Paying*.

Paul Solon

History



Paul Solon earned his BA and MA at the University of California–Berkeley and his PhD at Brown University. He came to Macalester in 1970 and taught courses dealing with pre-Industrial Revolution Europe

including a range of chronologically-based courses in European history with a particular emphasis on law, politics, and warfare.

Paul served as department chair from 1986 to 1990 and again from 2004 to 2006. He served as vice-provost during the long-range planning process in the early 1990s, and was recipient of the 2002 Excellence in Teaching Award. He was twice selected as a Newberry Library Fellow in the Newberry Library Humanities Program.

Fellow history professor Norm Rosenberg once said of Paul, “His range of interests and knowledge, along with his curiosity about virtually any subject, made him the perfect colleague. Few faculty members could begin to match Paul’s record of service to the college and his commitment to constant innovation.”

Paul’s favorite memory—other than teaching—comes from the cash-strapped late 1970s when the history faculty pooled their personal funds to buy lumber and paint, and spent a volunteer weekend fixing up an Old Main classroom.